## CLAIMS:

 A silicon-containing polymer comprising recurring units of at least one of the following general formulae (1) and (2):

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  each are hydrogen or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  each are independently an alkyl or haloalkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms or a silicon-containing group attached to the silicon atom through a siloxane or silalkylene linkage,

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R^{1} & R^{2} \\
\hline
\begin{pmatrix} C & C \\
 & C \\
 & R^{3} \\
 & R^{8} \\
 & R^{9} \\
 & R^{10}
\end{array}$$
(2)

wherein R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>3</sup> are as defined above, R<sup>7</sup> is an oxygen atom, a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an arylene group, R<sup>8</sup> to R<sup>10</sup> each are independently a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an aryl group, and n is an integer of 2 to 10.

15

2. The silicon-containing polymer of claim 1 further comprising recurring units of the general formula (3):

- wherein X is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or -NR-, R is hydrogen, hydroxyl, a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aryl group, and may contain an acid labile group, Rf<sup>1</sup> and Rf<sup>2</sup> each are independently hydrogen, fluorine or trifluoromethyl.
- 10 3. The silicon-containing polymer of claim 1 further comprising recurring units of the general formula (4):

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
Y^1 & Y^2 \\
-(C-C) \\
Y^3 & Y^4
\end{array}$$

(4)

wherein  $Y^1$ ,  $Y^2$ ,  $Y^3$  and  $Y^4$  are independently selected from the class consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, fluorinated alkyl and fluorinated alkoxycarbonyl groups.

4. The silicon-containing polymer of claim 1 further comprising recurring units of the general formula (5):

(5)

wherein  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  each are hydrogen or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and  $R^{13}$  is an acid labile group or adhesive group.

- 5 5. A resist composition comprising the polymer of claim 1.
  - 6. A chemically amplified, positive resist composition comprising
    - (A) the polymer of claim 1,
    - (B) a photoacid generator, and
    - (C) an organic solvent.
  - 7. The resist composition of claim 6 further comprising
  - (D) a dissolution inhibitor.

15

25

10

- 8. The resist composition of claim 6 further comprising
- (E) a basic compound.
- 9. A process for forming a resist pattern comprising the steps of:

applying the resist composition of any one of claims 5 to 8 onto a substrate to form a resist layer,

heat treating the resist layer and then exposing it to high-energy radiation having a wavelength of up to 300 nm or electron beam through a photo mask, and

optionally heat treating the exposed resist layer and developing it with a developer.

10. A process for forming a resist pattern comprising the 30 steps of:

applying the resist composition of any one of claims 5 to 8 onto a processable substrate formed on a support substrate through an organic film to form a resist layer,

heat treating the resist layer and then exposing it to
high-energy radiation having a wavelength of up to 300 nm or
electron beam through a photo mask,

10

15

20

optionally heat treating the exposed resist layer and developing it with a developer, and

treating the organic film and the processable substrate by an etching process including oxygen plasma etching at the portions where the exposed resist layer portions are removed by developing.

- 11. The process of claim 10 wherein the organic film is a novolac resin or polyhydroxystyrene layer.
- 12. A process for forming a resist pattern comprising the steps of:

applying the resist composition of any one of claims 5 to 8 onto a processable substrate formed on a support substrate to form a resist layer,

heat treating the resist layer and then exposing it to high-energy radiation having a wavelength of up to 300 nm or electron beam through a photo mask,

optionally heat treating the exposed resist layer and developing it with a developer, and

treating the processable substrate by an etching with a halogen gas containing chlorine or bromine at the portions where the exposed resist layer portions are removed by developing.